

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 32 are pending.

In response to the March 25, 2004 Restriction Requirement, the applicants elect for continued prosecution the Group I claims (claims 1 - 20 and 25 - 32), drawn to transmission of a single message having multiple packets, classified in class 370, subclass 473. The applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement.

The Examiner identifies that the combination 1 claims as claimed in the Group I claims do not require the particulars of the subcombination because the subcombinations II (i.e., claims 21 - 22) and III, (i.e., claims 23 - 24) are separately usable from the combination 1 claims of the invention.

The applicants respectfully submit that the factual basis for this determination is incorrect and that all of the claims can be examined together without undue burden to the Examiner. All claims in the application are directed to optimizing ingress processing via traffic classification and grouping. The group I or combination I claims are directed to different parts of the traffic classification and grouping invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the subcombination II claims, i.e., claims 21 - 22, are directed to the transmission part of the traffic classification and grouping invention. In addition, the subcombination III claims are directed to the receiving part of the traffic classification and grouping invention.

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An action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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